

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 7 on page 16 as follows:

When the PC is fully powered and running under the full system OS, the various functions of special purpose circuit 40 are bypassed and switches 60 are closed, as discussed above. In the normal mode, the computer system uses the South Bridge AC97 Controller 50 to directly control the AC97 Codec 42 through the AC_link (in the Normal mode AC_link₁ and AC_link₂ are the same since switches 60 are closed). The special purpose circuit does not intercept or of modify the AC_link signals.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 on page 19 as follows:

Referring now to Figure 2, in conjunction with Figure 3, an exemplary sequence 200 for the power up of the mini-OS and initiation of the player function, in one embodiment of the present invention, is illustrated. As stated above, at some time prior to the initiation of the audio player function of a PC equipped with the present invention, the user downloads (not shown in Figure 2) the audio files of interest to the HDD 36 or burns a CD-ROM that is placed in the CD-ROM drive 38 for use with the audio player feature of the present invention. As shown, at step 201, the sequence 200 begins when the user presses either an audio player power switch 54 or the computer's main power switch (not shown in Figure 3), to turn the system on. A determination is then made, at step 202, whether the computer is to boot in normal operation mode or compressed audio performance mode. This determination is typically made in the BIOS, based on whether the computer's power switch or an audio player power switch 54 was used to turn on the computer, although those skilled in the art will recognize that this determination could alternatively be made by an application

program or an operating system that provides such capability (e.g., Windows® 98). If the computer's power switch was used to turn on the computer, then the system boots to normal operation mode, at step 203, and the normal operating system (e.g., Windows® 98) is loaded into system RAM 30 and executed. If an audio player power switch 54 was used to turn on the computer, the mini-OS is loaded into system RAM 30, at step 204. At step 205 ~~203~~, the mini-OS initializes the system components including one or more of the North Bridge 28, South Bridge 32, special purpose circuit 40, hard drive 36, CD-ROM drive 38, codec 42, and CPU 26.